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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
RUHHHQA/CINCPAC
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 28591

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: JUNE 21 AFTERNOON SESSION

REF: SAIGON 28416

1. NA SECGEN NGO THANH TUNG READ LETTER FROM SPECIAL COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION WHICH EXPLAINS THAT LOCAL PRINTERS INCAPABLE OF PRINTING IN SUFFICIENT NUMBER BALLOTS ACCORDING TNSPECIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY ARTICLE 28 OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LAW. LETTER ASKS ASSEMBLY TO AGREE TO MODIFICATION OF BALLOT.

2. DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE MEMBERS FOR TH MOST PART SUPPORTED SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST; BUT OPPOSITIONISTS ARGUED THAT SPECIFICATIONS OF BALLOT PRESCRIBED BY LAW WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN PROMULGATED AND THUS CANNOT BE CHANGED UNLESS AN AMENDMENT IS PROPOSED BY THE DIRECTORATE. NEIGHER ALLIANCE BLOC NOR ITS OPPONENTS HAD SUFFICIENT VOTES TO FORCE CLEAR-CUT SOLUTION AND PRESIDING OFFICER, SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN GUYEN VAN DINH, RULED THAT NA SECRETARIAT WOULD WRITE LETTER TO SPECIAL COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDING THAT MATTER BE TAKEN UP WITH DIRECTORATE.

3. NA THEN DEBATED BRIEFLY LETTER FROM DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE BLOC LEADER LE PHUOC SANG PROTESTING FACT THAT MEMBERS NP OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN BLOCS. HOWEVER, SANG WITHDREW HIS PROTEST AFTER NA VICE-SECGEN LE THANH CHAU EXPLAINED THAT RULES PRESCRIBE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF BLOCS ONLY IN CASE OF NA'S SIX PERMANENT COMMITTEES.

4. NA WILL RECONVENE JUNE 28 TO BEGIN DEBATE ON DRAFT LOWER HOUSE ELECTION LAW.

GP-3.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Lyndberg DATE 10/5/81
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-774 NO. | CONFIDENTIAL | HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: June 23, 1967

SUBJECT : Bui Ngoc PHUONG and Nguyen Van BA Temporarily Withdraw from the Presidential Race

REF : SAIGON 24272
SAIGON A-717

1. In a letter dated June 7 to the publishers and editors of Saigon Vietnamese and English language newspapers, with a copy to the Embassy, Presidential candidate Bui ngoc PHUONG announced his temporary withdrawal from the presidential campaign as well as that of running mate Dr. Nguyen van BA.

2. The letter objected specifically to Article 10(7) (now eliminated) of the Presidential election law drafted by the "self-proclaimed Provisional legislative Assembly," which requires that candidates for the Presidency be "introduced" by at least 30 popularly elected representatives. It referred to press and popular criticism of the provision and said the introductions were a humiliation to which Phuong and Ba would not submit.

3. The letter also predicted that there would be at least 15 slates entered in the presidential election, and that therefore the winner would have less than an absolute majority, depriving him of the prestige to lead and represent the people. Phuong and Ba temporarily withdrew, therefore, to wait until the political atmosphere would be more open and relaxed at which time they will become candidates.

4. Phuong said that the "Democratic Republican Party" which was sponsoring their candidacy, would emerge publicly when the regulations on political parties are promulgated. He claimed the party contains "comrades" from "revolutionary parties and political groups."

Group 4
Downgraded at three-year intervals. Declassified 12 years after date of origin.

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by: POL:LHHyrne TJCHeavner
Clearances: TMRecknagel
Contents and Classification Approved by: John A. Calhoun

EA/VN ANALYSIS BRANCH Date of Action

Action Copies Sent

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5. Phuong's withdrawal was welcomed by at least one newspaper, which praised him for realizing that his chances were minimal.

6. Comment: The letter was not a Shermanesque statement of withdrawal and appears to have left open the possibility of a re-entry now that Article 10(7) has been eliminated from the Presidential Election Law promulgated June 16 and now that it appears there will be fewer than 15 candidate lists.

7. The copy of the withdrawal statement sent to the Embassy had a covering letter in which Phuong offered once again to head a civilian transitional government, submitted a list of those he claims would serve under him, and elaborated a draft plan for pacification and countryside reconstruction.

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